

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W
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R 131955Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3334

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 0300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR BR

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY AGAIN QUOTED BY MAJOR
BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER

REF: (A) STATE 001461, (B) BRASILIA 0285

1. JANUARY 10 ISSUE OF ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CARRIES REPORT BY CORRESPONDENT IN US SERGIO MOTTA MELO UNDER HEADLINE "REPORTER CONFIRM INTERVIEW AND MULCAHY SURPRISED BY NOTE." MELO REPORTS THAT, FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AND EMBASSY'S CLARIFICATION OF ESTADO'S JANUARY 1 STORY BASED ON ALLEGED INTERVIEW WITH MULCAHY (REFTEL B), MELO HAD AGAIN INTERVIEWED MULCAHY, THIS TIME BY PHONE, FROM PHOENIX. HE REPORTS MULCAHY AS STATING DURING TELEPHONE INTERVIEW THAT BRAZILIAN AND US CORRECTIONS OF ESTADO'S JANUARY 1 ARTICLE WERE "DIPLOMATIC FOOTBALL GAME THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND." ACCORDING TO MELO, MULCAHY DID UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF MOTA'S MATERIAL SUPPOSEDLY AFFECTED ITAMARATY, WHICH IN AN "OVER-REACTION", MAY HAVE PUBLISHED SOME INFORMATION PROVIDED BY US EMBASSY, WHICH THEN RESPONDED BY RELEASING ITS OWN VERSION.

2. MELO STATES MULCAHY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD ONLY READ PARTS OF MELO'S ORIGINAL ARTICLE ON SOUTH ATLANTIC. MELO CLAIMS CONVERSATION CONFIRMS THAT ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH MULCAHY WAS IN FACT INTERVIEW AND NOT "OFF THE RECORD CONVERSATION"
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TION" AS ITAMARATY CLAIMS. HE ADDS THAT IDEA OF GIVING MELO

"INTERVIEW FOR BACKBROUND INFORMATION" WAS INITIALLY PROPOSED TO MULCAHY BY ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. WHEN ASKED DURING INTERVIEW IF HE WOULD PERMIT HIMSELF TO BE QUOTED, MELO ALLEGES IN ARTICLE, MULCAHY REPLIED "NATURALLY-- NO PROBLEM," WITH EXCEPTION OF PORTIONS OF CONVERSATION DEALING WITH DOMESTIC POLITICS. HE REPORTS THAT MULCAHY AGAIN DECLINED TO CHARACTERIZE EARLIER CONVERSATION AS "EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW".

3. WITH REGARD TO USE OF TERM "BOOMERANG EFFECT," MELO REPORTS MULCAHY TOLD HIM HE "DID NOT RECALL WHETHER TERM USED," THOUGH MELO ASSERTS THAT CONTENT OF HIS COMMENTS IN THIS RESPECT WERE QUITE CLEAR. MELO CLAIMS TO RECALL QUITE CLEARLY THAT TERM "BOOMERANG EFFECT" WAS USED, AS HIS NOTES OF CONVERSATION WILL PROVE. MELO CONCLUDES BY CLAIMING THESE FACTS ARE PROVIDED FOR THE CLARIFICATION OF THE READER AND OF ITAMARATY, AND FOR TRANQUILITY OF HIS OWN CONSCIENCE WITH REGARD TO MULCAHY.

4. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS. AS TO ACCURACY MELO'S REPORT OF THIS LATEST CONVERSATION.
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